

Appl. No.: 09/764,837
Amdt. dated: December 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 15, 2003

Remarks/Arguments

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the final Office Action mailed August 15, 2003.

Claims 1-18 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-12, 14 and 16-18, and objected to claims 5, 13 and 15 solely as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have canceled claims 5 and 13 and amended independent claims 1 and 6 to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 13. As the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claims 5 and 13 was patentable, the Applicants submit that all pending claims contain patentable subject matter.

The references cited by the Examiner but not relied upon have been reviewed, but are not believed to render the claims unpatentable, either singly or in combination.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned before an advisory action is issued in order to avoid any unnecessary filing of an appeal.


Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including December 15, 2003.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 12, 2003

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Amendments to the Drawings

Two replacement sheets containing amended versions of Figures 1-3 are attached. Additionally, marked up versions of Figures 1-3 indicating changes made are attached.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

1/3

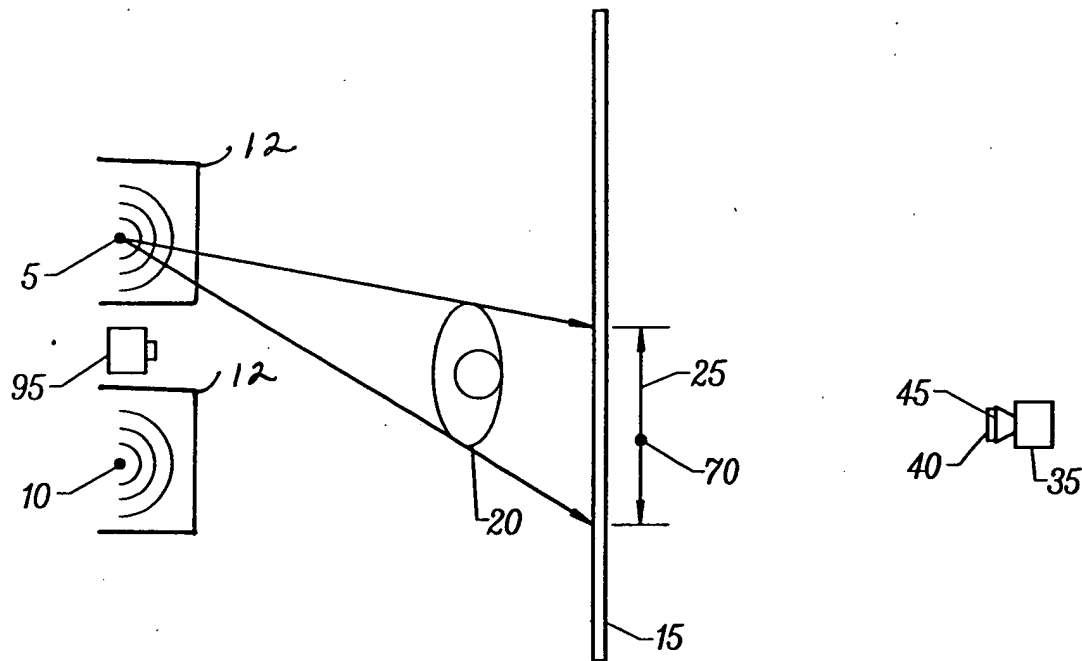


FIG. 1

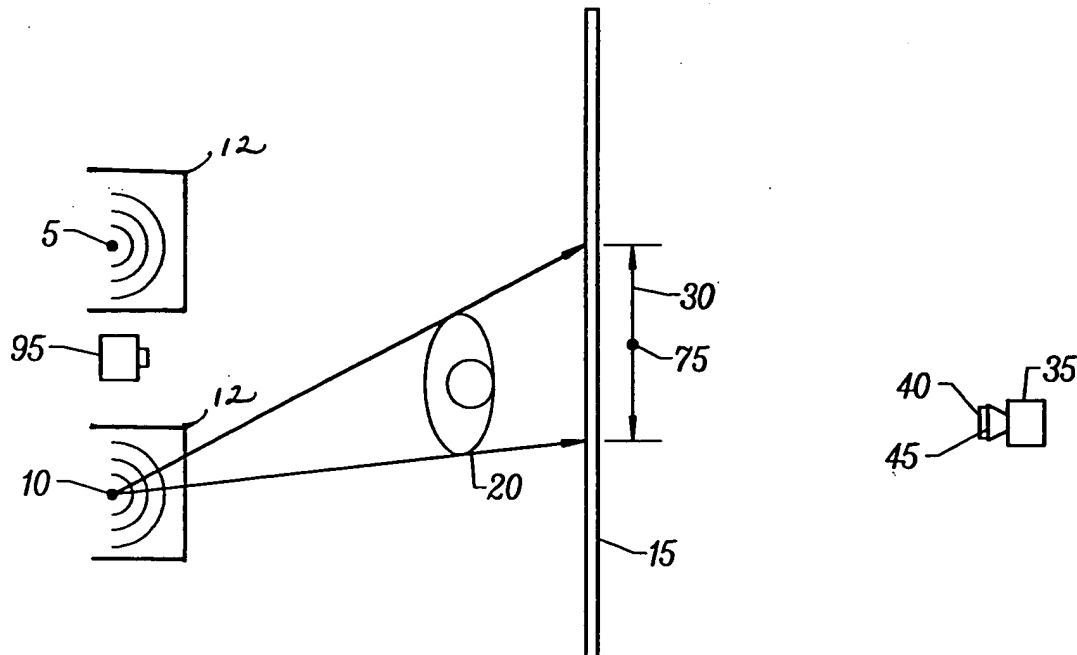


FIG. 2

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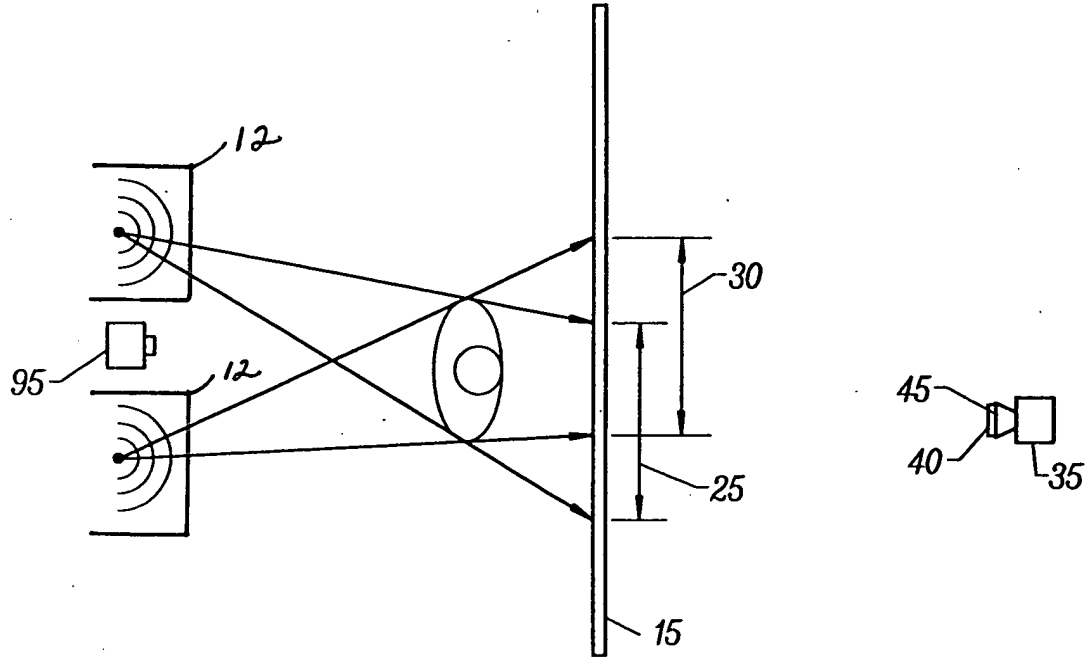


FIG. 3

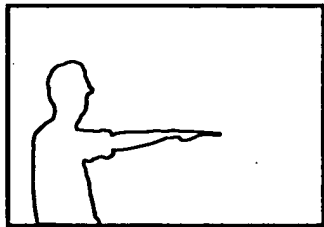


FIG. 4A

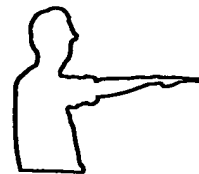


FIG. 4B